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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Vol. 8, No. 20 August 15, 1970

CAMBODIA

DOD Explains Policy On Air Operations

The Department of Defense explained Aug. 10 that the reason for carrying on air activities in Cambodia "is the interdiction of supplies, material, and personnel" in order to protect Americans in the Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamization program.

A DOD statement said, "The President's policy on air operations in Cambodia is that we will conduct operations to interdict enemy supplies, communications, and personnel when in the judgment of U.S. Commanders, such operations will enhance the safety and security of U.S. and allied personnel in South Vietnam.

"Such interdiction operations will have an ancillary effect that directly benefits the present government in Cambodia, but the purpose of our interdiction is to protect Americans and allied personnel in South Vietnam.

"Obviously, these operations may also have a dual benefit that may serve our purposes and at the same time serve the Cambodian Government."

In addition, the statement noted that the air activities in Cambodia will "enhance continuing American withdrawals" and reduce American casualties.

ROYAL THAI VISITOR—General Prapass Charusathien, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, is welcomed to Honolulu by Admiral John S. McCain Jr., Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Forces in the Pacific, for consultation with military commanders.

Secretary Of Army Resor Announces Options

Early Release From Active Duty To Guard, Reserve For Some ROTC Graduates In FY'71

Almost half of the Army ROTC graduates programmed for service this fiscal year will be released to the National Guard or Reserve after three to six months of active duty, Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor has announced.

The action results from a reduction in the number of Army officers needed in FY 1971, Mr. Resor said.

Letters have been sent to each officer scheduled for active duty in FY 1971 requesting that he states his preference for active duty or active duty for training. Officers presently on active duty

(Continued On Page Six)

Navy To Retire 55 Ships During Next Six Months

Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee announced Aug. 7 that 55 ships would be retired during the next six months—41 from the Pacific Fleet and 14 from the Atlantic Fleet.

More than 800 officers and 13,000 enlisted men are serving aboard the ships.

Retirement of the ships is a continuation of the Navy's program to remove older vessels from the active fleet. The ships will be either removed from the inventory or placed in the inactive fleet.

Seventeen of the ships are combatants including the attack carrier USS Bon Homme Richard and the heavy cruiser USS St. Paul. The remaining 38 scheduled for inactivation are auxiliary, amphibious warfare, or mine warfare ships.

The average age of the ships is 23 years. The oiler USS Platte has been in the fleet 31 years. **(See Listing On Page Three)**

DOD Releases Data On Reduction Of U.S. Personnel In Philippines

The Department of Defense has announced that during the current fiscal year the number of American military personnel in the Philippines will be reduced by approximately 6,000.

Officials said, "These reductions are related to the reduction in the U.S. force levels in Vietnam and to plans for reductions in U.S. force levels elsewhere."

It was noted that DOD authorized strength in the Philippines increased sharply, as a result of the U.S. buildup in the Republic of Vietnam, from a total of 13,500 military personnel in March 1964 to approximately 26,900 in March 1970—an increase of 99 per cent.

The new authorized strength will be approximately 36 per cent above that of March 1964.

Most of the projected reductions relate primarily to logistical forces which function in support of U.S. military activities in Vietnam.

Officials said, "U.S. military installations in the Philippines will continue to perform their mutual defense and regional security roles."

Following are questions and answers concerning the reduction of U.S. military personnel in the Philippines:

Q.—What kind and numbers of U.S. personnel will be affected? Is it possible to place these personnel losses in a generalized category as to function?

A.—Yes, the greatest portion of these personnel losses will be in the general category of support personnel. An example of personnel losses from Subic Bay and Sangley Point includes personnel performing duties related to operational and logistic support of aircraft, base security, communications, etc. It is only natural that the administrative support base of the various stations will be reduced since the number of activities which the station must support will be fewer. For the Navy, the over-all losses will be about 1,660. The remainder of the personnel reductions will come primarily from Clark Air Base. The same generalization applied to the Navy for the reductions in support categories is generally true for the Air Force.

Q.—Will these personnel be transferred to other U.S. bases in the western Pacific area?

A.—No, or at least not in any significant number. Some of the activities will be inactivated at Clark, and the people returned to the United States. The great majority of the personnel in other activities will also be transferred back to the United States. However, through routine assignments, it is possible that on an individual basis a very small per cent may be transferred to other U.S. bases in the western Pacific area. This could be true of other overseas areas as well.

Q.—After the reductions have been made, how many military personnel will be in the Philippines?

A.—The new authorized strength for U.S. military forces will be about 18,400.

Q.—Can you break out the reductions by military service?

A.—The Navy and Marine Corps will be reduced by about 1,660 spaces, the Army by seven, and the Air Force by about 6,800. The Air Force is presently undermanned by about 2,440 spaces, so the net reduction in Air Force personnel will be about 4,260.

Q.—Will any U.S. civilian employes be involved in the reductions?

A.—There will be some reduction in U.S. civilian employes, but the exact number of jobs to be affected has not yet been determined.

Q.—Are there any aircraft involved in the reductions?

A.—Yes, the Embassy in Manila announced earlier in the month the inactivation of the 509th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (F-102s) at Clark AB. There were about 550 men assigned to this organization and this number is included in the over-all reductions of Air Force personnel announced today. Additionally, two U.S. airlift squadrons of C-130 aircraft are scheduled to be inactivated at Clark during the year and their aircraft will be redistributed to other Air Force organizations.

Q.—Are there any ships involved?

A.—No.

Q.—At what locations will the reductions be made?

A.—The Navy and Marine Corps will reduce units/activities at Subic Bay, Sangley Point, Cubi Point, and San Miguel, the latter being a communications site. The Air Force reductions are mainly at Clark Air Base, but there are a few Air Force activities in the Manila area which will be affected.

Q.—What will these reductions mean in terms of loss of employment for Filipinos?

A.—While there will be some reduction in the number of Filipinos employed on the bases in addition to the reductions effected during Fiscal Year 1970, these reductions will not be as large proportionately as the reductions of American military personnel.

Deputy Secretary Packard On Awards Board

President Nixon has appointed five top level officials, including Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard, to serve on the Distinguished Civilian Service Awards Board.

Secretary of Transportation John Volpe was designated Chairman.

Other members are Robert H. Finch, Counsellor to the President; Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; and Rocco Siciliano, Under Secretary of Commerce.

The board was created by Executive Order June 27, 1957, "for the purpose of making recommendations to the President on Federal career employes whose exceptionally meritorious achievements deserve consideration for the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service."

The award, symbolized by a gold medal, was created by President Eisenhower. It is the highest honor for Federal career service.

Board members serve without compensation for an indefinite term.

Ships Scheduled For Decommissioning

ATLANTIC FLEET	HOME PORT	DISPOSITION SITE
USS Nimble (MSO-459)	Charleston	Charleston
USS Pinnacle (MSO-462)	Charleston	Charleston
USS Sagacity (MSO-469)	Charleston	Charleston
USS Skill (MSO-471)	Charleston	Charleston
USS Cambria (LPA-36)	Norfolk	Little Creek
USS Rankin (LKA-103)	Norfolk	Little Creek
USS Vermilion (LKA-107)	Norfolk	Little Creek
USS Tidewater (AD-31)	Norfolk	Charleston
USS Fort Mandan (LSD-21)	Little Creek	Little Creek
USS Walworth County (LST-1164)	Little Creek	Orange
USS Mauna Loa (AE-8)	New York	Philadelphia
USS Wrangell (AE-12)	Charleston	Norfolk
USS Aucilla (AO-56)	Norfolk	Philadelphia
USS Allagash (AO-97)	Newport	Philadelphia
PACIFIC FLEET		
USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31)	San Diego	S. Diego/Bremerton
USS Saint Paul (CA-73)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Walke (DD-723)	Long Beach	Bremerton
USS Mansfield (DD-728)	Long Beach	San Diego
USS Lyman K. Swenson (DD- 729)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Collett (DD-730)	Long Beach	Bremerton
USS Frank Knox (DD-742)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Taussig (DD-746)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Alfred A. Cunningham (DD-752)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS John W. Thomason (DD-760)	Long Beach	San Diego
USS Fechteler (DD-870)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Arnold J. Isbell (DD-869)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Benner (DD-807)	Long Beach	Bremerton
USS Herbert J. Thomas (DD-833)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Isle Royale (AD-29)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Surfbird (ADG-383)	Sasebo	Long Beach
USS Catskill (MCS-1)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Lucid (MSO-458)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Prime (MSO-466)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Acme (MSO-508)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Advance (MSO-510)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Klondike (AR-22)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Cormorant (MCS-122)	Everett	Bremerton
USS Sutter County (LST-1150)	Guam	Orange
USS Tioga County (LST-1158)	San Diego	San Diego
USS Outagamie County (LST-1073)	Guam	Orange
USS Page County (LST-1076)	Guam	Orange
USS Terrell County (LST-1157)	Yokosuka	Bremerton
USS Washoe County (LST-1165)	Yokosuka	Bremerton
USS Platte (AO-24)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Chemung (AO-30)	Long Beach	Long Beach
USS Mattaponi (AO-41)	San Francisco	Long Beach
USS Neches (AO-47)	San Francisco	Vallejo
USS Procyon (AF-61)	San Francisco	Vallejo
USS Firedrake (AE-14)	Concord	Vallejo
USS Paricutin (AE-18)	Concord	Vallejo
USS Virgo (AE-30)	Concord	Vallejo
USS Diodon (SS-349)	San Diego	Vallejo
USS Bugara (SS-331)	San Diego	Vallejo
USS Seafox (SS-402)	San Diego	Vallejo
USS Seminole (LKA-104)	San Diego	San Diego

DIPLOMATIC ADVISER—The Honorable Hermann F. Eilts, former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, has been appointed Diplomatic Adviser to the Commandant of the U.S. Army War College, Major General George S. Eckhardt. The assignment marks the first time a man of ambassadorial rank has served on the staff of the Army's senior school at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Ambassador Eilts will advise the Commandant on foreign policy matters.

Defense Dept. Requests Four Month Draft Call

The Department of Defense has determined that draft calls for the balance of Calendar Year 1970 will total 39,000, with all inductees assigned to the Army.

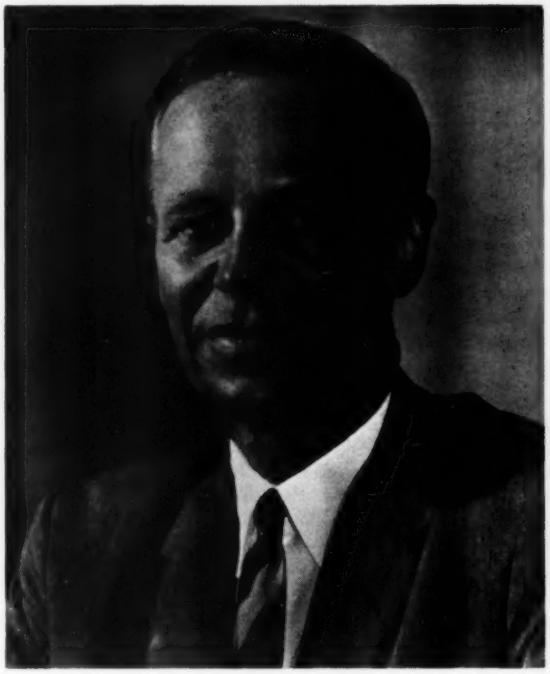
Officials said, "A review of the progress of Vietnamization (a component of the President's program for peace) and the reduction of U.S. troops in Vietnam make it possible to announce draft calls for four months at one time rather than to follow the usual practice of announcing one month at a time."

The Selective Service System has been requested to provide the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Stations with 12,000 inductees in September, 12,000 in October, 8,000 in November and 7,000 in December.

It was noted that draft calls for Calendar Year 1970 will total 163,500—the lowest for any calendar year since 1964 when the total was 107,500.

THE SECOND DECADE OF WORLD DEVELOPMENT

The United States Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Charles W. Yost, has outlined policies and programs that this country would like to see developed by the United Nations in the second decade of a world-wide effort. He spoke before the UN Economic and Social Council when it met in Geneva, Switzerland, recently. Here are excerpts from his speech.



Ambassador Yost

We are all aware of both the achievements and shortcomings of the "First Development Decade." We should not underestimate the former.

It established the goals, laid the foundation, created the machinery, tested both the concepts and the means and, for the developing world as a whole, reached the target which had been set—the five per cent annual growth rate.

However, these gains were very unevenly distributed and were offset by other severe problems. Many countries suffered from increasing and spreading unemployment . . . . Too heavy burdens of foreign indebtedness grew worse. And, in all too many countries, the growth of the economy was virtually cancelled out by the staggering growth of the population.

Perhaps I can most usefully contribute today, on behalf of the United States, to the discussion . . . by concentrating on two questions: First, what part does the United States hope to play in the "Second Development Decade?" Second, what is the true nature and purpose of development as we are coming to perceive it in the light of experience?

A Constructive Role For The U.S.

I turn to the part that my country intends to play in the "Second Development Decade."

In discussing this question I am well aware of the important place which the United States occupies in the world economy and specifically in the development effort, both as a source of aid and investment and as a market for the exports of the less developed countries.

We fully intend to play a major and constructive role in the "Second Development Decade," provided of course that others, both developed and developing, do likewise. In this connection I call attention to the following facts.

- First, under the present Administration the United States has moved to increase substantially its contributions to multilateral development institutions. . . . We have supported the replenishment of the capital of the International Development Association at an annual level substantially higher than heretofore. The President has asked Congress for a $246 million selective capital increase in the World Bank and for a contribution of $100 million for the UN Development Program. We are also seeking substantial increases in our contributions to the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, are prepared to support the African Development Bank, and are providing loans for the newly created Caribbean Development Bank.

- Second, the United States has taken a strong stand in favor of "untying" bilateral aid to the developing countries—that is, freeing them from the obligation to import items from the aiding country.

- Third, the United States is taking new steps to encourage the flow of American private investment into the developing countries . . . .

- Fourth, the United States has urged in the Development Advisory Committee that steps be taken to relieve the heavy burden of overseas debt which hampers many developing countries.

- Fifth, the present Administration has made clear its intention to pursue a liberal policy in the field of foreign trade and . . . to provide expanded access to our markets for the products of the developing countries, bearing in mind their need to diversify their exports.

International Community Action

We look on the strategy for the "Second Development Decade" as a dedication of the international community to the comprehensive goals which it sets out and as a more precise guide to the measures by which we believe they can be achieved.

It is, of course, of the utmost importance that all take part

in this great enterprise to the fullest extent of their abilities. It will not succeed if the developing countries, in addition to seeking an expansion of overseas trade and aid, do not fully use their own capacities and resources, human and material, even at the cost of heavy sacrifice by the present generation.

It will especially not succeed if *all* of the developed countries do not contribute, regularly and generously . . . . Since 1947 the people of the United States have made more than $140 billion available to assist in international relief, rehabilitation and development.

As the labors of the Preparatory Committee for the "Second Development Decade" remind us, the ingredients of sound development are immensely varied and complex.

Today I shall discuss only three of them . . .

These are human resources, population policies, and the human environment.

Man And His Role

Education policy and manpower policy are now recognized as basic elements of sound development planning.

Yet in this year 1970, which has been proclaimed International Education Year, it is still a fact that the educational sector in many developing countries is badly in need of improvement.

Not only are there 100 million more illiterates than there were 20 years ago; there are also millions of educated men and women whose usefulness is tragically limited because they were educated for the wrong century.

The Director General of UNESCO in addressing this Council . . . stressed the imperative need for relating education more strictly to development goals . . . .

A sound human resources policy must also provide for employment for all the people, whether they have modern skills or not.

It is estimated that 20 per cent of the entire male labor force in the less developed countries today is unemployed.

Too Many Mouths To Feed

[A recent report said] "No other phenomenon casts a darker shadow over the prospects for international development than the staggering growth of population. It is evident that it is a major cause of the large discrepancy between rates of economic improvement in rich and poor countries."

This view was borne out in a study, submitted to the last session of this Council, which pointed out that whereas the per capita growth in the developing countries in the 1950s averaged 2.5 per cent a year, this figure fell in the 1960s to under two per cent—"because of the more rapid rates of population growth." By contrast . . . the per capita growth in the developed countries rose from three per cent in the 1950s to four per cent in the 1960s—"and relative improvements are due to a considerably less rapid growth of population."

The future pace of development will be determined as much by the ability of countries to reduce the present alarming rates of population growth as by any other factor.

The third and final . . . problem I want to discuss in the context of the Development Decade is the human environment.

This term, in fact, embraces a whole range of quality problems which have come more and more into the foreground of public discussion in recent years: the pollution of our air, water, and food; the depletion of our resources; the disfigurement of nature; the indignity and misery of urban slums.

With a human population of three and a half billion today, and the prospect of seven billion by the year 2000, our first priority is not to create an earthly paradise but to maintain a habitable world.

We need in development policy a balance between the long term demands of production, investment, and growth on one hand, and on the other hand the urgent and immediate needs of communities, both urban and rural, for housing, schools, sanitation and the simple amenities of life.

And likewise in the matter of resources, sound development requires a prudent balance between present and future needs.

Drugs And The UN

There is one other problem in which the objectives of the Second UN Development Decade converge with our concern with human environment. I am referring to the disastrous spread of drug addiction in both developed and developing countries.

'The abuse of hard drugs, such as heroin, is increasing sharply, all strata of society are affected and there is an ominous expansion of such abuse to young people and even children.'

The abuse of hard drugs, such as heroin, is increasing sharply, all strata of society are affected and there is an ominous expansion of such abuse to young people and even children. The uncontrolled production of dangerous drugs and the criminal trade in them not only causes untold misery to millions of people but threatens to erode community patterns and to weaken the stability of our institutions.

In the face of this serious situation, my Delegation has requested that the Council at this session add an additional point to its agenda which would help us to mobilize the resources of the UN system in the fight against addiction and its causes.

Mr. President, in this statement I have sought to present to the Economic and Social Council, on behalf of the United States, some reassurances concerning the quantity of development and some pertinent thoughts concerning its quality.

War and armaments aggravate poverty and suffering; poverty and suffering lead to war and armaments.

The cause of peace and the cause of human progress are interlocked; in our times neither can be won unless both are won.

That is the double task to which this Council, the entire United Nations organization—and all its members—are called this year and in the decade to come.

Secretary Of Army Resor Announces Options

Early Release From Active Duty To Guard, Reserve For Some ROTC Graduates In FY'71

(Continued From Page One)

who enrolled in a basic officer course which started on or after July 1, 1970, have been offered the same option.

Army officials said that individual preferences will be given consideration "consistent with active Army requirements." If the preferences do not match requirements, the Army will determine by random selection which officers will serve on active duty or active duty for training.

The Army plans to inform each officer by mid-September of his duty status for FY 1971—whether it will be two years of active duty followed by a reserve commitment, or three to six months of active duty for training followed by a longer reserve commitment.

In recent years, fluctuating officer requirements have been met by varying the enrollment in Officer Candidate Schools. However, since the OCS program already has been reduced to a minimum, the Army is returning to the short active duty training concept which was used in the 1950s and early 1960s.

ROTC graduates who serve on active duty for training only will have a statutory obligation requiring three to six months active duty followed by service in the Ready Reserve until the eighth anniversary of acceptance of their commission.

The ROTC graduate who serves the normal two-year tour on active duty has a remaining obligation of three years in the Ready Reserve, and one year in the Standby Reserve.

The action does not affect officers who have already incurred an active duty obligation. These are officers who have received scholarship assistance, have been designated Distinguished Military Students or Distinguished Military Graduates and have applied for or have accepted Regular Army appointments.

Also, officers who have successfully completed Army ROTC Flight Instruction, officers whose call to active duty was delayed so that they could obtain a degree leading to qualification for appointment in the Medical, Dental, Veterinary, Medical Service, or Chaplain Corps, and those who have been selected for appointment in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

A CH-47 Chinook of the Americal Division delivers a load of 105mm ammunition to C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery in the Republic of Vietnam. Everything on this hilltop was delivered by helicopter. (Related Story On Next Page)

Mr. deRosa Heads New Telecommunications Position

Mr. deRosa

Louis A. deRosa became Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) Aug. 11, the first appointee to the position which was established May 21, 1970.

Mr. deRosa, formerly Corporate Vice President for engineering and research, Philco-Ford Corp., Philadelphia, is the Principal Staff Assistant to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird for telecommunication matters, and for the National Communications System.

He is responsible for developing DOD telecommunications policy, directives to support policy, and for recommending program/budget policies, plans and procedures as they relate to telecommunications.

The office was established to consolidate staff responsibility for telecommunications matters, and for the National Office of the Secretary of Defense, and to strengthen management of telecommunications resources to attain maximum economy and efficiency.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Army R&D Chief Notes Reliance On Helicopters In Tactical Warfare

The use of helicopters in tactical warfare has been a revolutionary development, Lieutenant General A. W. Betts, Chief of Research and Development, Department of the Army, told the Army Aviation Association of America in Los Angeles, July 28. The general said any military operation in the foreseeable future will rely on helicopters to a major extent for tactical mobility.

In the following excerpts from his speech, the R&D chief outlines the paramount problem facing the development and production of military helicopters:

Lieutenant General Betts

It is no news to this audience that the Army believes the development of the helicopter has had about the same revolutionary effect on battlefield tactics as did the development of the stirrup and the bridle centuries ago. Our battlefield successes of Vietnam—and the hard fact of reality is that we have been winning—are due in large measure to the mobility and flexibility provided our ground forces by the helicopter.

One may say, yes, the helicopter has proved its worth in Vietnam, but that is a unique situation where you have been operating under complete aerial supremacy, in the absence of a really sophisticated air defense system, and your losses are more than a thousand aircraft downed. . . .

May Modify Tactics

We are well aware of this, but every study and war game exercise that I have seen indicates that the air-mobile concept will be equally valid against a more sophisticated enemy, albeit some of our tactics may require modification.

What this says then, is that the Army believes that in any military operation in the foreseeable future it will rely to a major extent on aerial vehicles for its tactical mobility—no matter the enemy, no matter the intensity.

The problem, then, is to maintain in the years ahead the tactical advantage that we believe we now have in this field, in the face of rising Soviet technological progress on one hand, and a shrinking U.S. defense R&D budget on the other. . . .

Technological Progress

The technology of our current aerial vehicles is now basically over a decade old, and I need only to remind you of the technological progress in the field of TV sets to stress the technological progress that has been made in the past 10 to 15 years—in all fields. Some of the new aviation technology lends itself to incorporation into existing aircraft, a process generally referred to as up-grading or product improvement; still other technology requires a completely new system design if full advantage is to be made of the advances.

Ideally, we would like to replace system for system, wherever the cost effectiveness shows the new system to be superior. As we all know, this is not always possible for several reasons—available dollars being the principal one. In the past this has not presented the problem, though, that it does today, since technological advances did not come with great rapidity and racing with obsolescence was not a daily trial.

Today, obsolescence poses an increasingly difficult problem. In the air mobility area we are essentially at a crossover point. We are now coming to the time when all of our first generation air-mobile systems should, from a technological point, be undergoing replacement during the next five to 10 years. The air mobility systems we need, and need the soonest, are the gunship to replace the "interim" Cobra, an assault lift aircraft to replace the aging Huey and a heavy lift helicopter to provide the logistic and service support beyond the capabilities of the CH-54 and CH-47. We also see an end to the useful life of the 15-year-old Mohawk.

Remote Possibility

Yet, our shrinking R&D and procurement budget forecasts tell us that in the foreseeable future there will be few simultaneous system-for-system-replacements, and the probability of any two happening concurrently is very remote.

In terms of R&D, I see a few new system development programs in the next two to three years. The successor to the Chinook—the light tactical transport aircraft system (LTTAS)—is a casualty of a reduced Defense budget. We do not see any ability to undertake this program until about 1975. Our Mohawk replacement—the manned aerial vehicle for surveillance (MAVS)—is even farther in the future. . . .

. . . for the current fiscal year FY '71, we expect to have something less than the $110 million we requested for air mobility. The forecast for the future reflects a little improvement in total dollars, but when we consider inflation and the rising costs of doing R&D, we are not going to be able to do all of the things we believe we should undertake. At best, we can see an increase of only about eight to 10 per cent for FY '72-'73 funding over our request of FY '71, and we are not optimistic that we'll receive this much. We will continue to consider the attack armed helicopter our number one development priority. Other programs line up behind this one, with no new system starts planned before '72 or '73.

However, to end on a positive note, I believe the budgets will be adequate, though barely, to support our technological growth in the next few years. We will, hopefully, be able to have a greater number of development options from our component efforts, though system starts will be fewer.

Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations

DOD Adopts Contract Release Suggestion; Studies Conflicts Of Interest

The Department of Defense is moving ahead on two additional recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel—"Announcement of Major Contract Awards," and "Conflicts of Interest."

Two other areas already receiving attention are: "Improved Equal Employment Opportunity," and "Procurement."

On Aug. 5, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird notified the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) and the Assistant to the Secretary (Legislative Affairs) of a change in the way major contract awards are to be announced.

In a memorandum, Secretary Laird said, "I would like you to revise Defense Department policies and procedures with respect to announcements of contract awards to insure that there is no premature notification prior to public announcement."

At an Aug. 6 press conference, the Secretary of Defense noted that the "whole question" on announcement of major Defense contracts, as recommended by the Panel, has been implemented.

The Blue Ribbon Panel commented on the adverse effect of giving notice of contract awards to members of Congress in advance of public announcement. Previously, members of Congress were notified of contracts prior to release by the Department of Defense.

Secretary Laird said, "We will follow the practice now of having a release which will normally be made available to all of you (the press) in this building (Pentagon) at 4 o'clock each afternoon. That press release will be distributed to you as well as to interested parties on the Hill . . . ."

Conflicts Of Interest

In the conflict of interest area, Secretary Laird said, "The Army has been charged with the responsibility of drafting the orders and the regulations in accordance with the Blue Ribbon Commission Report. I would assume that this would be a matter that we could go forward on very rapidly . . . ."

He noted that this is a first draft based on proposals of the Panel. The draft is being circulated in the Department for comment.

Chapter VI (Conflicts of Interest) in the Report lists: Retired Officers and Former Employes; Current Officers and Employes; Nonappropriated Fund Activities; Consultants.

Other subjects at the press conference included the Panel's recommendations concerning the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Following are excerpts of that conversation:

QUESTION: I would like to ask you about your relationship with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Fitzhugh proposal and the changes in the operational responsibilities of the Chiefs.

SECRETARY LAIRD: Well, as far as my relationship with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I think that I have maintained and continue to maintain a good working relationship with the Joint Chiefs. They are my principal military advisers, of course, and they are the principal military advisers of the Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States.

I have met more with the Joint Chiefs on a regular basis than any other Secretary of Defense. I am available to the Joint Chiefs individually or as a group at any time of the day or night. They are available to me as my principal military advisers.

The Fitzhugh report addresses our organizational chart. If you take the directive of 1958, the organizational chart gives the impression that in the field of operations the operational

Secretary of Defense Laird

authority is carried out by some sort of committee action; that the Joint Chiefs as a body act in the operational areas.

Now, as far as long-term planning and long-term operations, certainly they have a responsibility. However, it is not as confused as some people would lead you to believe, because in the operational area, which is my responsibility under the 1958 law, this delegation has been made to the Joint Chiefs. I have operated more directly with the Chairman in the operational area. He has been the principal person in the line of operational authority between me and the Unified and Specified Commanders.

The Fitzhugh report makes a very major point out of this, that with the '58 order there is a situation that would lead one looking at it from the outside to believe that the Joint Chiefs, as such, act on every operating order and have that operating responsibility. This area involving the organization chart is one that I am looking at.

I am not clear how other Secretaries have handled it, but as a practical matter, with General (Earle) Wheeler and with Admiral (Thomas) Moorer, I have handled it with the Chairman and have not asked for concurrence or sign-off on operating orders by the Chiefs.

Now, some people say this is contrary to the regulation. Well, I am looking at that regulation, but I wanted you to know as a practical matter how it operates. As far as my relationships with the Chiefs, I listen to their recommendations on a regular basis, and I don't believe that there has ever been a better working relationship.

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